

IN HONOR OF GRAYCE BOGDEN
NOTEBOOM ARNOLD

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I am honored today to acknowledge the inspiring life of Grayce Bogden Noteboom Arnold, a woman who made great contributions to cultural development in my district and to the community of Patagonia, Arizona.

Grayce Bogden Noteboom Arnold arrived in Patagonia in 1976. Her route to Arizona from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, took her first to Guadalajara, Mexico, where her husband, John Patton Arnold, had been commissioned by Popular Mechanics and the American Automobile Association to publish the first motor tourist guide of Mexico in the mid-1950s. Mexican President Luis Echevarria later recognized this guide as opening "the gateway" to motorized travel in Mexico.

Grayce and John also built one of the first prototype house cars (recreational vehicles) by converting a 1949 Ford panel truck, nicknamed "La Tortuga". When they returned to the United States from Guadalajara, Grayce, John and their two children, John David and Elaine, settled in Nogales, Arizona. Subsequently, they moved to Tucson where Janie was born and John Senior passed away in 1972. During all this time Grayce had been developing her artistic talent. She took sand cast candle lessons from famed Tucson artist Ted DeGrazia.

In 1976, Grayce moved into the Miner's Old Home in Patagonia, which had been built in 1905 as the residence for the chief mine engineer Mr. McDonald. The house was in very poor condition and was extensively remodeled to provide living quarters and ultimately became home to Grayce's Gift and Candle Shop and Museum. Grayce's reputation as an artist and entrepreneur flourished. Her contributions include designing Patagonia's first 3 postcards and her civic involvement to promote Patagonia as a tourist destination. Over the years, her notable business contacts included film stars Faye Dunaway and Joanna Cassidy.

Visitors to Grayce's shop see immediately that it is more than a place of business. It is part museum, art gallery, and gift and candle shop. They also receive a personalized guided tour and explanation of the artistic renderings. The guest book contains entries from thousands of people from all walks of life from around the world who have left their names and cheerful comments about their visit. Grayce's artistic collection includes her award-winning sand cast candle dioramas. The Tree Spirit, Cocoon, Desert Storm and other creative masks are the centerpiece of her artistic creations. Two of the masks have been featured on postcards which she designed. One of Grayce's greatest sculptures is her rendition of a Tarahumara man in traditional dress squatting in contemplation. At Grayce's you will find unique southwestern arts, crafts from indigenous Mexican cultures including the Tarahumara, Yaqui, and Seri Indians.

People who knew Grayce are inspired that a person of her age was so full of life, physically active and ran her own business until age 97. Grayce would be the first to tell you that age is irrelevant as she did belly dancing,

remarried and launched her artistic career in her 60s. She always told her children to never stop dreaming, to be creative and to help others.

Grayce has been an inspiration to all of us. She stands as a wonderful example of the significant contributions that women in the west make to the cultural and economic development of our communities.

HONORING SSGT LLOYD LEE ELLIOTT, USAF 8TH AIR FORCE—
34TH BOMB GROUP

HON. MARY FALLIN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. FALLIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend SSgt Lloyd Lee Elliott, USAF of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, for his service to the United States of America.

SSgt Lloyd Lee Elliott, USAF, distinguished himself in service to our country from August 13th, 1943, to October 15th, 1945. SSgt Lloyd Lee Elliott served as a tail-gunner on a B-17 Bomber completing 33 missions over Germany.

There are many paths which are set before us in life, many times paths which are not desirable to pursue. Answering the call of his country, this young man followed the path before him not knowing if it would lead him safely back home. Believing in the freedom of the United States and in defending our rights, Staff Sergeant Elliott distinguished himself in service to our country.

Each person who has served our country has many experiences which can be shared. We share today with Staff Sergeant Elliott our thanks and our gratitude for his service. He is one of many who have sacrificed; answering the call to make the United States of America what it is today.

Once again, I want to commend SSgt Lloyd Lee Elliott, USAF.

POLISH AMERICAN HERITAGE
MONTH

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, this month I proudly join the thousands of Polish Americans living in Chicago in a celebration of Polish history, culture, and pride during Polish American Heritage Month.

This year, Polish Americans celebrate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first Poles to America's first settlement in Jamestown, Virginia. The first five Polish settlers traveled to Jamestown aboard the English ship, the Mary and Margaret, at the invitation of Captain John Smith and the London Company. They arrived on October 1, 1608 and distinguished themselves as America's first tradesmen. Poles, alongside other ethnic groups, were among the pioneers who helped to establish this country as the land of hope and opportunity. Their work ethic helped create the foundations of modern America.

The celebration of this milestone coincides with another important historical landmark: the

90th anniversary of the reinstatement of Polish independence. In 1918, after 123 years of occupation and generations of struggle by the Polish people, Poland reappeared on the map of Europe after World War I.

The United States is grateful to Poland for its friendship and commitment to the democratic ideals of liberty and human rights. Poland is a strong ally of the United States, and I am dedicated to continuing the strong record of cultural and economic ties between our two nations.

My hometown of Chicago has a thriving and active Polish American community. Madam Speaker, I am honored to join the citizens of my district, as well as those of Polish descent around the country in recognizing, remembering, and celebrating Polish American Heritage Month.

CONGRATULATING PREVENT
BLINDNESS WISCONSIN

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Prevent Blindness Wisconsin and to celebrate its 50th anniversary of service. Prevent Blindness is a non-profit, volunteer organization that has provided free vision screenings for over five million Wisconsin children and adults since 1958.

This year alone, Prevent Blindness Wisconsin recruited, trained, and certified nearly 2,000 volunteers who helped screen more than 220,000 children and 3,000 adults statewide. Through their hard work, they were able to help diagnose hundreds of children who suffered from significant vision abnormalities, which, left untreated, could have resulted in permanent vision loss.

Prevent Blindness has a wonderful history of helping children from families in need, at-risk adults, and the community to help screen, treat, and prevent vision problems from worsening. Their volunteers join together with local eye-care professionals to ensure that these children can get the treatment they need to protect their vision.

On behalf of all who have benefited from its efforts, I would like to thank Prevent Blindness Wisconsin for all of its work for children, adults, and families in Wisconsin. I congratulate Prevent Blindness Wisconsin on 50 years of service and wish everyone who makes their work possible a joyous anniversary celebration.

HONORING JEFF MILLER,
FOUNDER OF HONOR AIR

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jeff Miller, a small business owner and son of a World War II veteran from Hendersonville, North Carolina. Mr. Miller is one of the founders of Honor Air, which enables hundreds of World War II veterans the chance to travel to Washington, DC to see the National